Blank Custody Declaration Format

A blank layout showing the parts a declaration usually has: caption, title, numbered paragraphs, exhibit references, and signature and verification lines. It is format only: it has no suggested facts or wording, and it does not say what to include, file or argue. Everything in [brackets] is yours to replace in your own words or delete.

Your court's own form and rules come first. Your state's court forms and local rules come first; many courts require their own form, a specific first page, pleading paper, font, spacing or page limits, or an affidavit signed before a notary instead of a declaration. Penalty-of-perjury and verification wording also varies from court to court. Check your court's forms page or self-help center, and consult a licensed attorney where you live if you can. You are responsible for everything you sign.

Before you sign (this page is not part of the declaration)

- ☐ I checked whether my court has its own required form or first page for this document.
- ☐ Every paragraph is in my own words.
- ☐ Every exhibit reference matches an exhibit that is attached and labeled the same way.
- ☐ The signature block uses the exact declaration or verification wording my court requires.
- ☐ I replaced or deleted every [bracket], and I removed this instructions page.

General template for organizing your own information. It is not legal advice and not a court-approved form. Court rules and required forms vary by state and county, so check your court's local rules and self-help center. Custody Commander is optional self-help software for storing and organizing your own evidence and exporting a numbered list of it. It does not write, review or file your declaration. Free plan with no card, or try Full Suite free for 7 days, at custodycommander.com.

[NAME OF COURT]
[County, district or division, if your court uses one]
[Party name], [party role as your court lists it]
v.
[Party name], [party role as your court lists it]
Case No. [_____] [Other caption details your court requires, if any]

DECLARATION OF [YOUR FULL NAME] [TITLE YOUR COURT USES, IF ANY]

I, [Your full name], [declare / state / the wording your court uses]:

[Section heading, if you use headings]

1. [Paragraph topic, in your own words.]

2. [Describe the event in your own words.]

3. [Next point, one topic per paragraph.] See Exhibit [Exhibit letter or number].

[Section heading, if you use headings]

4. [Describe the event in your own words.] See Exhibit [Exhibit letter or number], page [page number].

5. [Add numbered paragraphs as needed. Keep one continuous numbering sequence through the whole declaration.]

Exhibits referred to in this declaration

Exhibit	Short description	Paragraph(s)	Pages
[Exhibit letter or number]	*[Short description in your own words]*	*[Paragraph #]*	*[#]*

Signature and verification

[Use the exact declaration/verification wording your court requires.]

Signed on [Date] at [City and state, or the place your court asks for].

_____

[Signature]

[Printed full name]

[Contact details only if your court requires them here. If you have a protective order or need your address kept confidential, ask your court or a local advocate which address to use. Papers filed in a case are usually served on the other party.]

[If your court requires a notarized affidavit instead, leave room here for the notary's section, which the notary completes.]